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AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
EXCALIBUR™
FEATURING: SHADOW-CAT
PLUS
3 MORE
ALL-NEW
FEATURES!

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

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Stan Lee Presents:

EXCALIBUR "HAVING A WILD WEEKEND" 1

WRITER — Michael Higgins
PENCILER — Erik Larsen
INKER — Terry Austin
LETTERER — Tim Harkins
COLORIST — Tom Vincent

"DARK SHADOWS" — PART 2 OF 8

Is there life after the Loonies? Shadow Cat discovers the answer when she's forced into deadly confrontation with Cat Shadow!

BLACK PANTHER "PANTHER'S QUEST" 9

WRITER — Don McGregor
PENCILER — Gene Colan
INKER — Tom Palmer
LETTERER — Joe Rosen
COLORIST — Mike Rockwitz

"GREAT CAT IN THE CITY OF GOLD" — PART 20 OF 25

When you look at the splash page of Johannesburg, resplendent in illuminated golden architecture, you'll probably figure you've missed a chapter of Panther's Quest. But you haven't. The Great Cat has left the dusty township and prowls the wealthy, glittering city in search of prey!

COLDBLOOD "RISE AND SHINE" 17

WRITER — Doug Moench
PENCILER — Paul Gulacy
INKER — Paul Gulacy
LETTERER — Tim Harkins
COLORIST — Glynis Oliver

"GRAND CENTRAL STATION" — PART 7 OF 10

Coldblood's internal computer completes the narration of Lt-Col. Eric Savin's past. After being murdered by Mako, Savin was brought back to life as Coldblood-7, the first successful fully functioning cyborg — at the hands of cybersurgeon Gina Dyson, who later freed him. Meanwhile, Mako faces a reception for his secret masters and, needing to produce his cyborg, he dangles the captured Gina as bait. Coldblood bites.

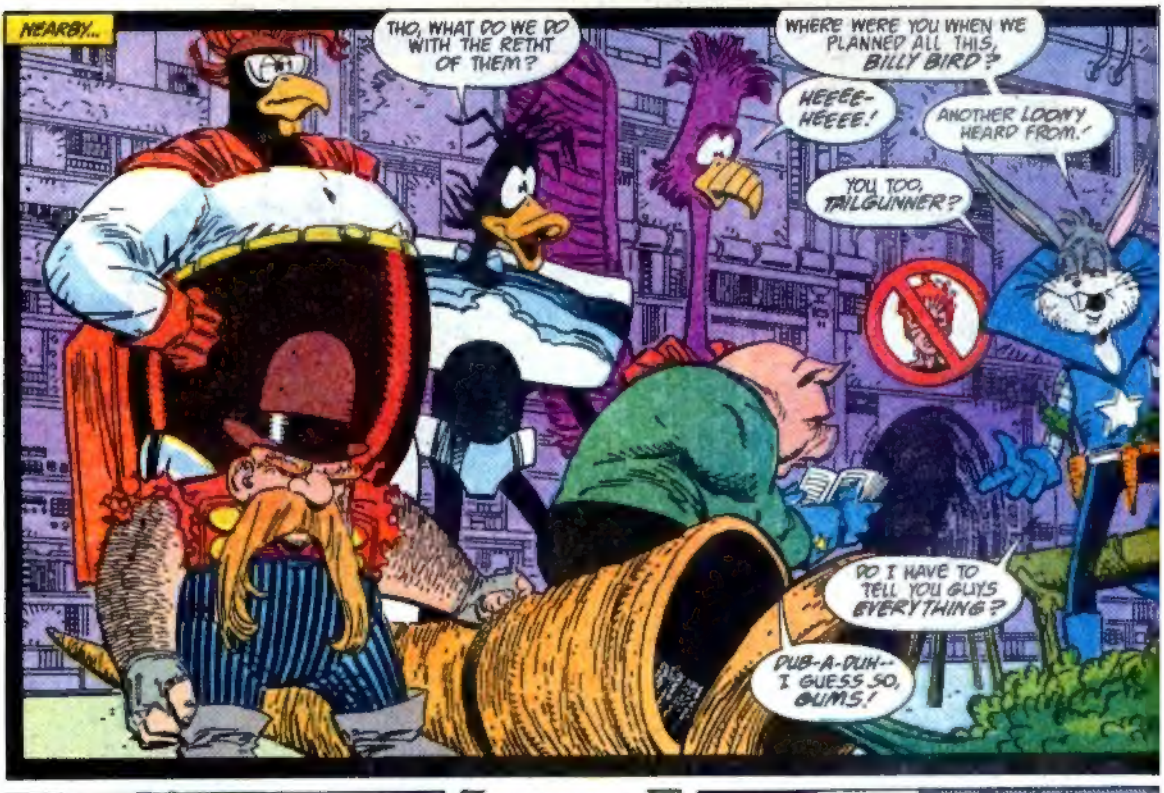
SUNFIRE "THE DREADED DEADLINE DOOM" 25

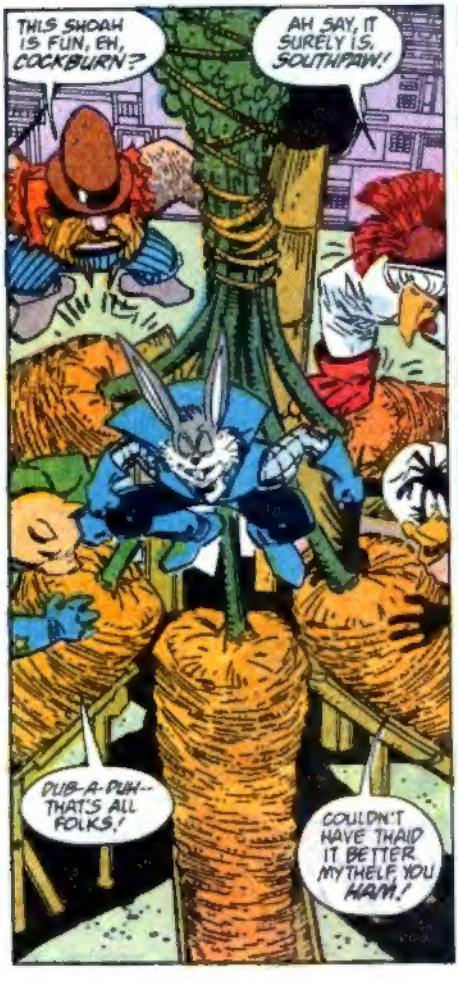
WRITER — Scott Lobdell
PENCILER — Don Heck
INKER — Dave Cockrum
LETTERER — Diana Albers
COLORIST — Ken Feduniewicz

Shiro Yoshida is a student in Japan. Occasionally, when time and inclination permits, he uses his mutant abilities to wield the powers of atomic flame. He's very good at it . . . just ask him.

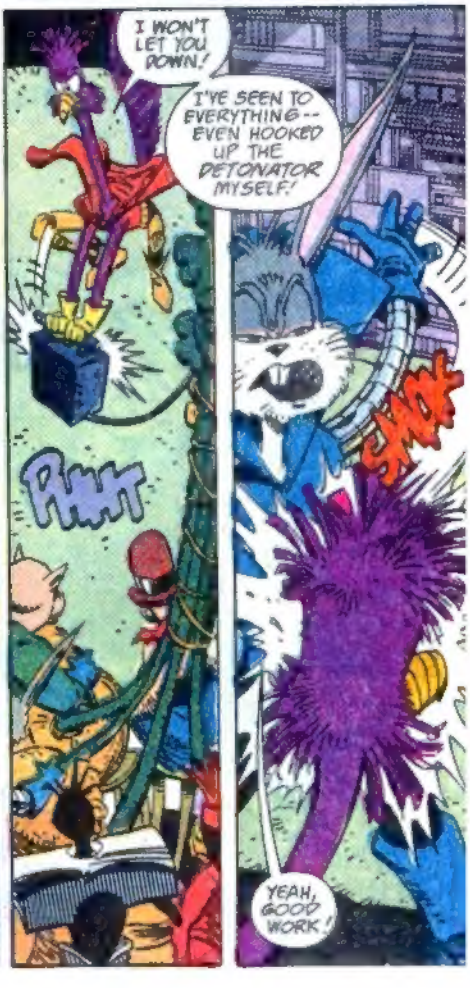
MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™ Vol. 1, No. 32, Late November, 1989. Published by MARVEL COMICS, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published bi-weekly. Copyright © 1989 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.75 in Canada. Subscription rate $15.00 for 12 issues. Canada and foreign, $21.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS (including all prominent characters featured in the issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof), are trademarks of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC.

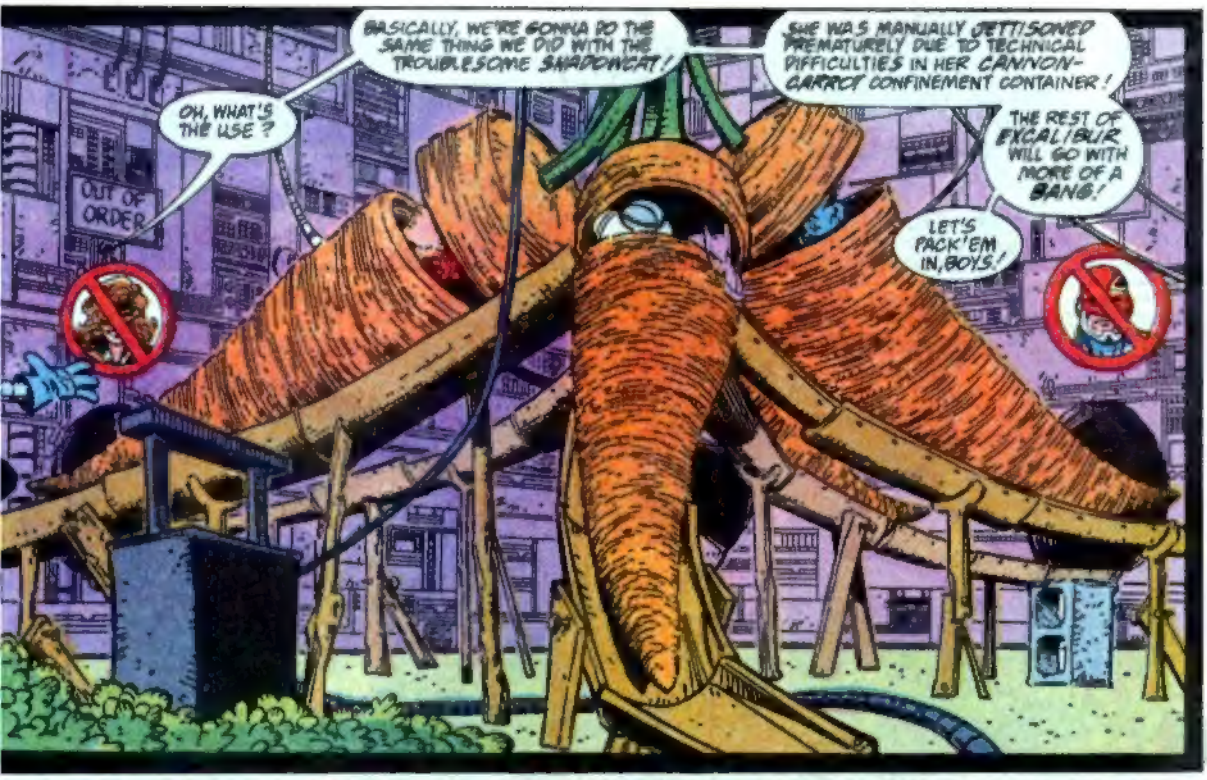
SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
THEN IT HITS HER...
...AS DARKNESS GIVES WAY TO--
BLINDING LIGHT!
C-CAN BARELY SEE!
EXCALIBUR
FEATURING SHADOWCAT
WHERE AM I?
HOW DID I GET HERE?
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
308
HAVING A WILD WEEKEND PART 2
DARK SHADOWS


NEARBY...
THO, WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE RETHT OF THEM?
WHERE WERE YOU WHEN WE PLANNED ALL THIS, BILLY BIRD?
HEEEE-HEEEE!
ANOTHER LOONY HEARD FROM.
YOU TOO, TAILGUNNER?
DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU GUYS EVERYTHING?
DUB-A-DUH-- I GUESS SO, GUMS!


THIS SHOAH IS FUN, EH, COCKBURN?
AH SAY, IT SURELY IS, SOUTHPAW!
DUB-A-DUH-- THAT'S ALL FOLKS!
COULDN'T HAVE THAID IT BETTER MYTHELF YOU HAM!

C'MON! OUT OF THE WAY! OUT OF THE WAY!
I LIKE TO DO THINGS FAST! HEEEE-HEEEE!


I WON'T LET YOU DOWN!
I'VE SEEN TO EVERYTHING-- EVEN HOOKED UP THE DETONATOR MYSELF!
PHHT
SMOK
YEAH, GOOD WORK!


OH, WHAT'S THE USE?
OUT OF ORDER
BASICALLY, WE'RE GONNA DO THE SAME THING WE DID WITH THE TROUBLESOME SHADOWCAT!
SHE WAS MANUALLY JETTISONED PREMATURELY DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES IN HER CANYON-CARROT CONFINEMENT CONTAINER!
THE REST OF EXCALIBUR WILL GO WITH MORE OF A BANG!
LET'S PACK 'EM IN, BOYS!

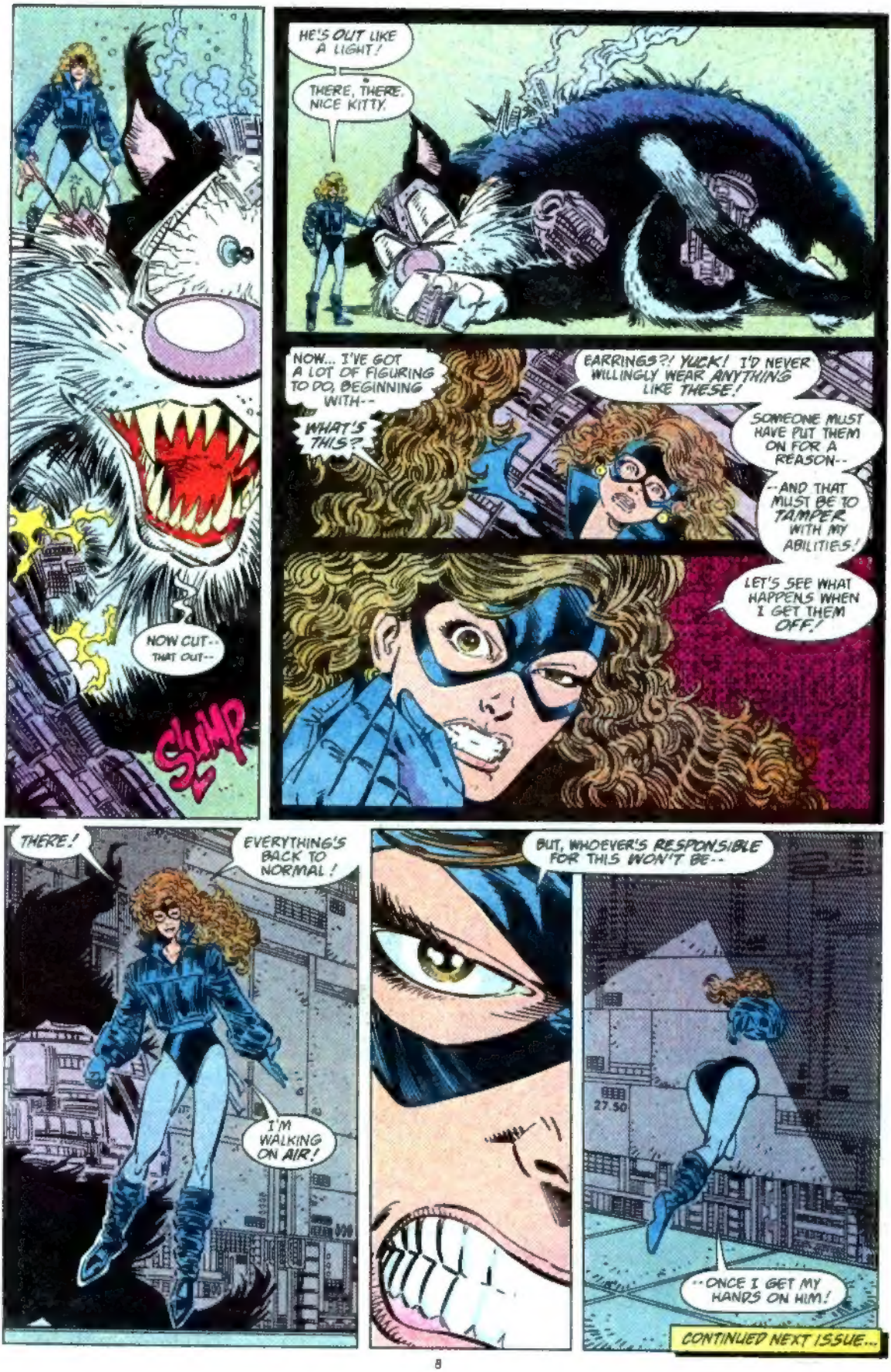
STAND ASIDE AND LET A RABBIT DO THE JOB!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE SURE IT'S DONE RIGHT!
KA BOOM
SLOOP
SLOOP
SLOOP

WORKED OUT JUST THE WAY Y'ALL PLANNED IT, HUNH?
AW, SHUDDUP!
NOBODY NEEDS A JOKER!
MEANWHILE...
I THOUGHT I SAW--
YOWTCH!
SLASH
WHERE DID HE COME FROM?
WEIRD. HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE MORE THAN A SHADOW!
THAT-TH WHAT YOU THINK, THWEETIE!
GULP
NICE KITTY...
I'M MORE THAN A MERE SHADOW!
AND... NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE!
YIIIIPES!
ZZZZPT

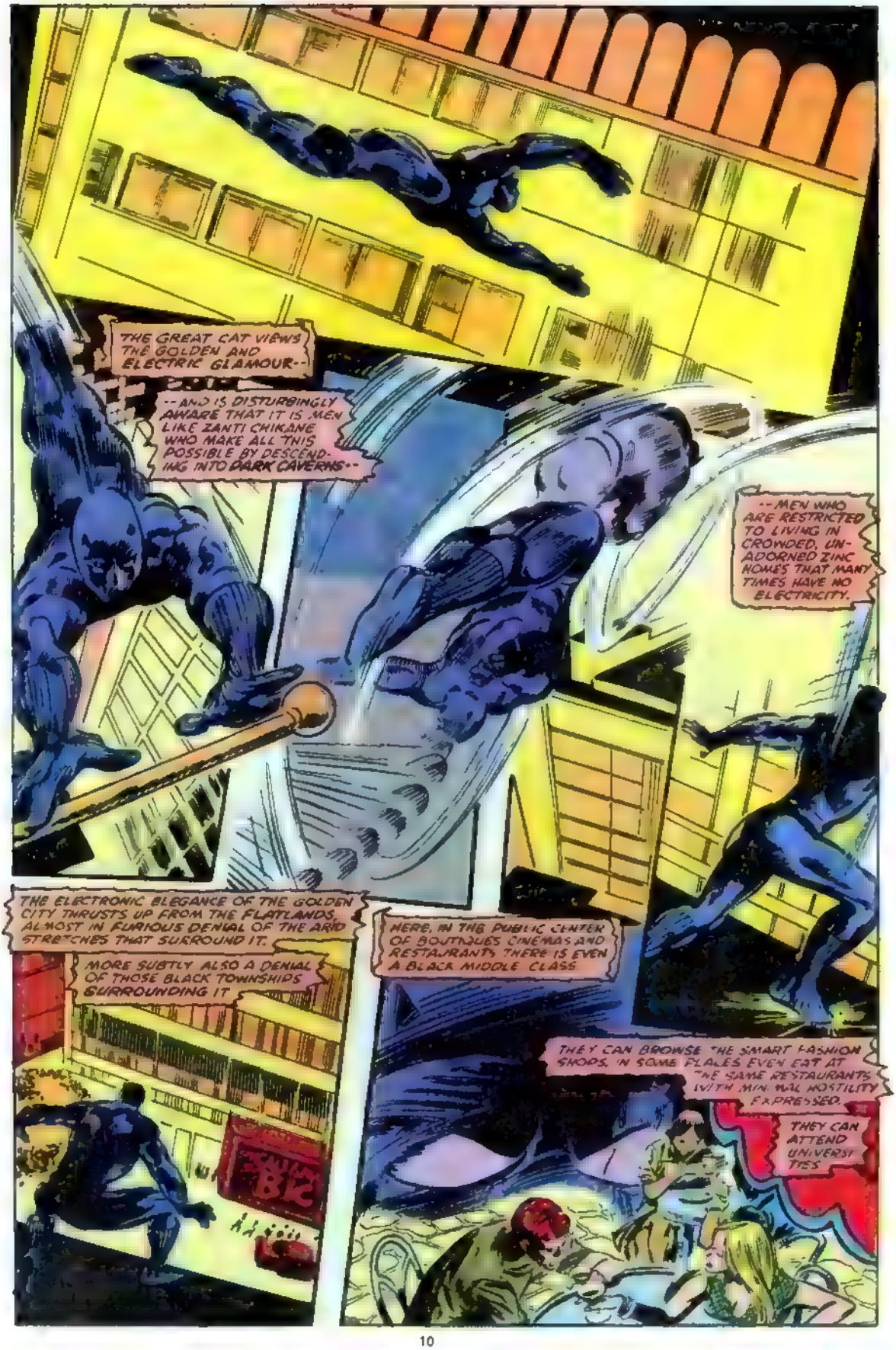
I DON'T RECKON THE BOSS WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT!
HE'LL JUST BE GLAD TO KNOW EVERYTHINGTH GOING THO THMOOTHLY!
DUB-A-DUB-- I'LL SAY!
I AM YOUR DARKETHT NIGHTMARE!
AND YOU ARE NO MORE THAN A BIRD IN A CAGE!
NO PROBLEM! I'LL JUST PHASE OUT OF HERE!
WAITAMINUTE! I SHOULDN'T BE SOLID NOW ANYWAY-- NOT WITHOUT CONCENTRATING ON IT!
MAYBE... MY POWERS HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL!
HMM... GUESS NOT!
CAN'T SEEM TO PHASE AT ALL!
EVEN THOUGH SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY POWERS, CONTACT WITH THE PUTTY TAT HERE SEEMS TO HAVE DISRUPTED HIS SYSTEMS--
-- WHICH MEANS HE'S OPERATED BY SOME SORT OF SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER-ELECTRONICS!

THUFFERING THQUASH AND TURNIPTH--OR THOMETHING LIKE THAT!
UH-OH! SOMETHING TELLS ME I MADE PUSS 'N' BOOTS PRETTY MAD!
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S ABOUT TO LUNGE--BUT HE'S NOT MOVING!
THE NAME'TH ROCHETHTER...
...AN' I'M NOT WEARING ANY BOOT-TH!
IT-TH EATHIER FOR MY CLAWTH TO GET AT YOU THITH WAY!
WISH I COULD FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!
LAST THING I REMEMBER... WE WERE ATTACKED AT THE LIGHTHOUSE!
HE'S CHANGING!
SOMEHOW, MY POWER IS LATENT WITHIN ME--AND HE'S SUFFERING THE SIDE-EFFECTS!
WHAT-TH MATTER? DID I HURT LITTLE KITTY-BIRD?
RIPP

SLASH
UNGH!
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS-- --THIS ROCHESTER BEFORE... ALTHOUGH I'LL ADMIT HE DOES LOOK FAMILIAR!
WHOEVER HE IS, THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO FIGHT HIM UNDER THESE CONDITIONS!
SHE-TH NO FUN THITH WAY!
SNIFF SNIFF
NUDGE NUDGE
I GUETH I COULD ALWAYTH JUTHT EAT HER!
FAT CHANCE, FAT CAT!
NOW, I'M COMING ABOARD!
SWUU SH
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
TH'TAND TH'TILL!
SLURRP
TIME FOR A LITTLE REPROGRAMMING!


NOW CUT-- THAT OUT--
SLUMP
HE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT!
THERE, THERE, NICE KITTY.
NOW... I'VE GOT A LOT OF FIGURING TO DO, BEGINNING WITH--
WHAT'S THIS?
EARRINGS?! YUCK! I'D NEVER WILLINGLY WEAR ANYTHING LIKE THESE!
SOMEONE MUST HAVE PUT THEM ON FOR A REASON--
--AND THAT MUST BE TO TAMPER WITH MY ABILITIES!
LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GET THEM OFF!
THERE!
EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMAL!
I'M WALKING ON AIR!
BUT, WHOEVER'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS WON'T BE--
27.50
--ONCE I GET MY HANDS ON HIM!
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

PANTHER'S QUEST
PART XX
STARRING: THE BLACK PANTHER
THE GREAT CAT IN THE CITY OF GOLD
"If the black fantasy started to merge with white reality what would be left of apartheid? And then who would rule?"
- from Joseph Lelyveld's "Move Your Shadow," published by Times Books, Random House, Inc
THE CITY GLISTENS LIKE THE GOLD THAT BROUGHT IT INTO EXISTENCE GOLD LOVINGLY POLISHED AND CHERISHED
JOHANNESBURG'S EDIFICES AND STRIKING SCRAPERS SCINTILLATINGLY IGNORE THE DIRT AND SWEAT AND BLOOD THAT IT TOOK TO RIP THE PRECIOUS ORE FROM THE EARTH
STREET LAMPS REFLECT OFF SKYSCRAPER WINDOWS IN MOLTEN FLASHES--
--BRIGHT AS NEW HOPE.


THE GREAT CAT VIEWS THE GOLDEN AND ELECTRIC GLAMOUR--
--AND IS DISTURBINGLY AWARE THAT IT IS MEN LIKE ZANTI CHIKANE WHO MAKE ALL THIS POSSIBLE BY DESCENDING INTO DARK CAVERNS--
--MEN WHO ARE RESTRICTED TO LIVING IN CROWDED, UNADORNED ZINC HOMES THAT MANY TIMES HAVE NO ELECTRICITY.
THE ELECTRONIC ELEGANCE OF THE GOLDEN CITY THRUSTS UP FROM THE FLATLANDS, ALMOST IN FURIOUS DENIAL OF THE ARID STRETCHES THAT SURROUND IT.
MORE SUBTLY ALSO A DENIAL OF THOSE BLACK TOWNSHIPS SURROUNDING IT
HERE, IN THE PUBLIC CENTER OF BOUTIQUES CINEMAS AND RESTAURANTS THERE IS EVEN A BLACK MIDDLE CLASS
THEY CAN BROWSE THE SMART FASHION SHOPS, IN SOME PLACES EVEN EAT AT THE SAME RESTAURANTS WITH MINIMAL HOSTILITY EXPRESSED.
THEY CAN ATTEND UNIVERSITIES

WHITE MIDDLE-CLASS STORES AND ENTERTAINMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE SEGREGATED AREAS. BUT THEY STILL HAVEN'T ANY VOTE OVER WHO DECIDES THEIR FATE
THEY CAN BE MIDDLE-CLASS HOME OWNERS. BUT THEIR HOMES ARE STILL SUBJECT TO RELOCATION AT GOVERNMENT WHIM.
THEY CAN BE MIDDLE CLASS HOME OWNERS WHO CAN RIDE THE LONG ESCALATORS TO VARIOUS LEVELS OF SUB-URBAN PROGRESS.
A CITY MELTING LIKE GOLD IN A CRUCIBLE.
THE STROKING OF NYLONED KNEE SARELY STIRS STRIKE, BUT IS AN INTIMACY HE EXECUTES OUT OF PERFUNCTORY OBLIGATION.
FOR STRIKE, IT IS AN ACTION EXPECTED OF HIM BY RUTH AND HIS MALE COLLEAGUES.
GORE HAD TOLD HIM TO TAKE 24 HOURS R&R AFTER DELIVERING THE EXILE CODE TO SLADE'S OLD LADY.
YOU DO WHAT THE BOSS SAYS YOU DO WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO ON R&R, GET TOGETHER WITH BROADS AND BOOZE.
I WAS SURPRISED TO GET YOUR CALL. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN JOHANNESBURG IN MONTHS.
SURPRISED ME TOO. GOT ME THIS RUSH, WE-CAN'T-WAIT-ANOTHER-MINUTE BUSINESS CALL AND HERE I AM.
HE WASN'T COMFORTABLE WITH CHITCHAT. MAYBE HE SHOULD BECOME A HERMIT.
NO, THAT DIDN'T SUIT HIM EITHER. HE ENJOYED THE COMPANY OF OTHER MERCS, LISTENING TO THEIR R!@%! CONQUESTS. THEY'D TALK ABOUT WOMEN AND NYLONED KNEES.
SOMEHOW, TALKING ABOUT WOMEN AND NYLONED KNEES STIMULATED STRIKE MORE THAN WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY CAME TO ACTUALLY TOUCH THEM.
YOU DON'T KEEP IN TOUCH.
NEITHER DO YOU BABY. SO WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO WHILE THE BIG BAD WOLF'S AWAY?

T'CHALLA STARES FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT, HIS PULSE RACING
HE FORCES HIMSELF TO RELAX, LET HIS BREATHING SLOW AFTER THE EFFORT OF THE LONG NIGHT'S SEARCH.
THE HUNT IS OVER THAT IS STRIKE BELOW THE MAN S ONE OF THE FEW ADVERSARIES HE KNOWS BY INDIVIDUAL NAME -
-AND H S ONE ONLY BECAUSE HE OVERHEARD GORS SAY IT WHILE BARBED WIRE RAKED RAZORED GASHES ACROSS HIS BODY.
THE GREAT CA" LEAPS--
-HAVING DETERM NED H S EXACT LAND NG PLACE
THE AWNING TEARS AS HE CALCU- LATED--
FFRRAAP

--DARKSTARS NEW YEAR STRIKE LIKE A WRATHFUL APPARITION.
WHAT THE--!?
YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE BOONIES GOIN' BANANAS OVER MOMMY!
YOUR MISTAKE.
MAYBE GORE IS RIGHT YOU DO HAVE THE ATTENTION SPAN OF A KUMQUAT
WHOOO
SH
--BUT SHE DOES NOT VOICE THAT QUESTION OUT LOUD EITHER.
RUTH WONDERS WHAT THE H-- S GOING ON BUT SHE DOESN'T ASK THE QUESTION ALOUD.
YOU'RE VERY PANICKY STRIKE!
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GRACE UNDER PRESSURE?
WAS THAT SOMETHING YOU NEVER HEARD OF.
OR COULD NEVER LIVE UP TO?
LAST DATE WITH THIS CREEP. TOO COLD EVEN HIS FINGERS ON HER KNEE YOU'D THINK THAT'D BE WARM.
BUT EVEN IN INTIMATE TOUCH STILL SUCH COLD DISTANCE EYES HARD AS ICE.
RUTH STOOD WONDERING ABOUT WHAT THE H-- IS GOING ON--
--AND STAR'S WONDERING ABOUT HER CHOICE IN MEN--

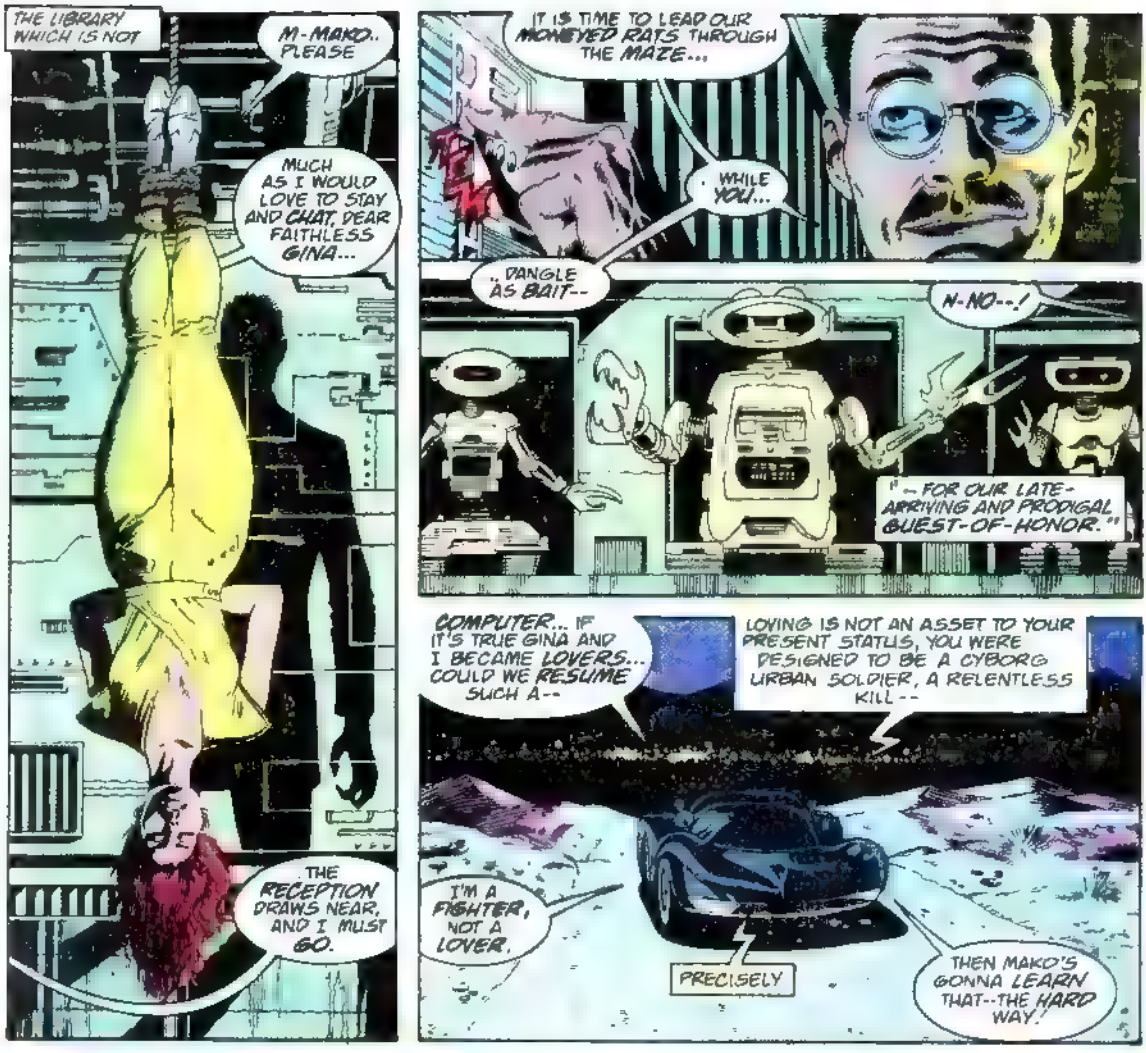
THE STEPS RISE TO MEET THEM, A DULL STEEL RUSHING TO FLESH, WITH TING WITH A JARRING, MUTED BEAT..
WHUCK!
WHUCK!
WHUCK!
THE STEPS DISAPPEAR INTO THE FLOOR GRATING AS IF HUNGRILY DEVOURED.
AT FIRST STRIKE IS NOT SURE WHERE THE WARM BLOOD IS COMING FROM. HE IS CONFUSED AS TO WHOSE BLOOD IT IS..
IT TAKES HIM ANOTHER THREE SECONDS TO REALIZE WHY THE BLOOD SPLASHES NOT AND WIPES ACROSS THE BACK OF HIS HAND.
..UNTIL THE SHREDDED FINGERS SHRINK INSIDE HIS HEAD.
THEN HE SQUINTS IN PAINFUL HORROR, KNOWING FLESH AND BONE ARE GROUND TOGETHER.
HE CANNOT UNCLENCH HIS HAND LOOSE.

THE ESCALATOR CONTINUES ITS RELENTLESS GRIND. UNINTERRUPTED.
STRIKE STARES UP INTO GOLDEN CAT EYES. A QUIET FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.
YOU AIN'T GETTIN' NU NU NUTTIN', OUTTA ME!
YOU MEAN LIKE THE NAME OF THE MAN YOU AND GORE WORK FOR?
YEAH. I AIN'T TELL TELL YELLIN' YOU DIDDLY-SQUAT
I ALREADY KNOW WHO YOU WORK FOR.
YOU AIN'T GOT... TIME FOR HEAD-GAMES... TRY TO FAKE ME OUT
YOU... HAVEN'T A CLUE... TO THE HEAD HONCHO.
OF COURSE I DO
YOU'RE A... LOT OF... MOUTH
YOU ARE A FOOLISH MAN. YOU'RE IN NO POS'N TO MAKE ME ANGRIER THAN I AM
IF YOU WERE TO MAKE ME ANGRIER, ALL IT WOULD ACCOMPLISH IS FORCING ME TO HURT YOU WORSE THAN YOU ALREADY ARE
TIME'S ON MY SIDE. THE FEDERALES WILL BE HERE ANY ...MINUTE
TRUE. BUT BY THEN, I WILL BE GONE AND THIS WILL BE OVER
YOUR EMPLOYER IS THE MAGISTRATE OF COMMUNICATIONS...
ANTON ... PRETORIUS

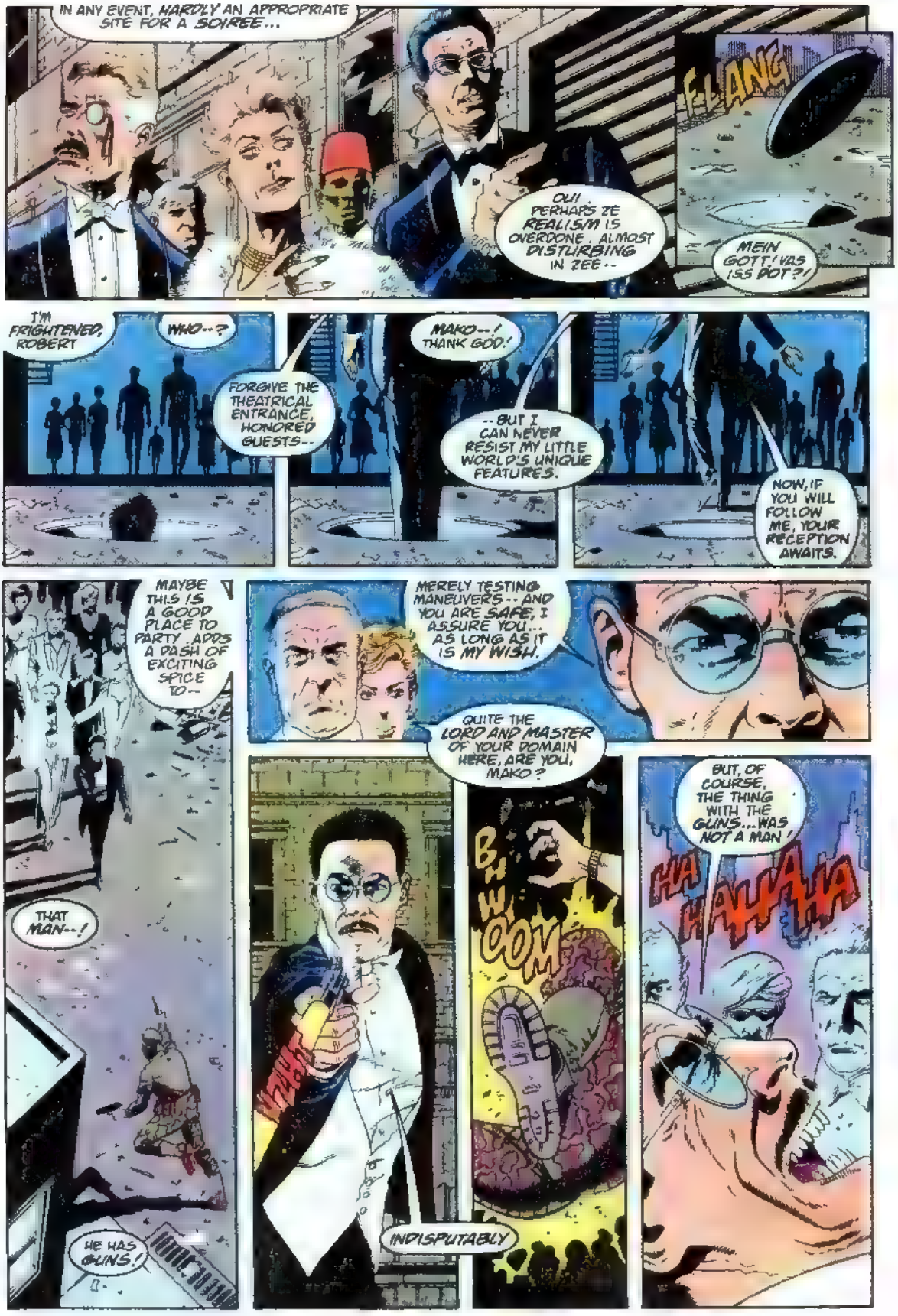
HOW'D YOU... HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT? HE WAAAY... IN THE BACKGROUND... AN' CORE ..HE WOULDN'T...HAVE TOLD YOU
NO. BUT YOU JUST CONFIRMED MY SUSPICIONS. I WAS NOT A 100% SURE IT WAS PRETORIUS --
--THOUGH THE EVIDENCE ONCE I HAD A CHANCE TO GIVE IT RUMINATION, INDICATED HE AT LEAST KNEW HER
NOW YOU WILL TELL ME WHERE PRETORIUS LIVES
CAN'T
DO THAT.
SURE YOU CAN. JUST LIKE I CAN PUT YOUR ARM BACK INTO THE ESCALATOR GRATING
I WOULD NOT WANT TO DO IT, BUT I CAN DO IT.
YOUR CHOICE
WHAT THE #!%! ? WHERE HE LIVES NO SECRET NO NEED LOSIN' MORE FINGERS FOR NOTHIN'. IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE HE LIVES ON DEVIL'S PEAK OVER..
I KNOW WHERE IT IS. IT OVERLOOKS CAPETOWN
YOU WOULDN'T'VE DONE IT, WOULD YOU? MY ARM I MEAN
THE GREAT CAT'S EYES GLOW--
--A LOT'S UN FATHOMABLE SECRETS LOCKED IN SUMMER DEEPS.
BE GLAD YOU DID NOT HAVE TO FIND OUT IF YOU SPEAK WITH YOUR FRIENDS, TELL THEM NOT TO COUNT ON MY COMPASSION OR RELUCTANCE TO VIOLENCE
I AM GOING TO FIND MY MOTHER AND NOW THAT I KNOW WHERE SHE IS NO ONE IS GOING TO STOP ME.
ANYONE WHO GETS IN MY WAY IS FAIR GAME TELL MORE THAT.
AND THE GREAT CAT..
--I GAVES THE BESIEGED D. TASURE SEEKERS --
--AND THE CITY OF GOLD
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE.

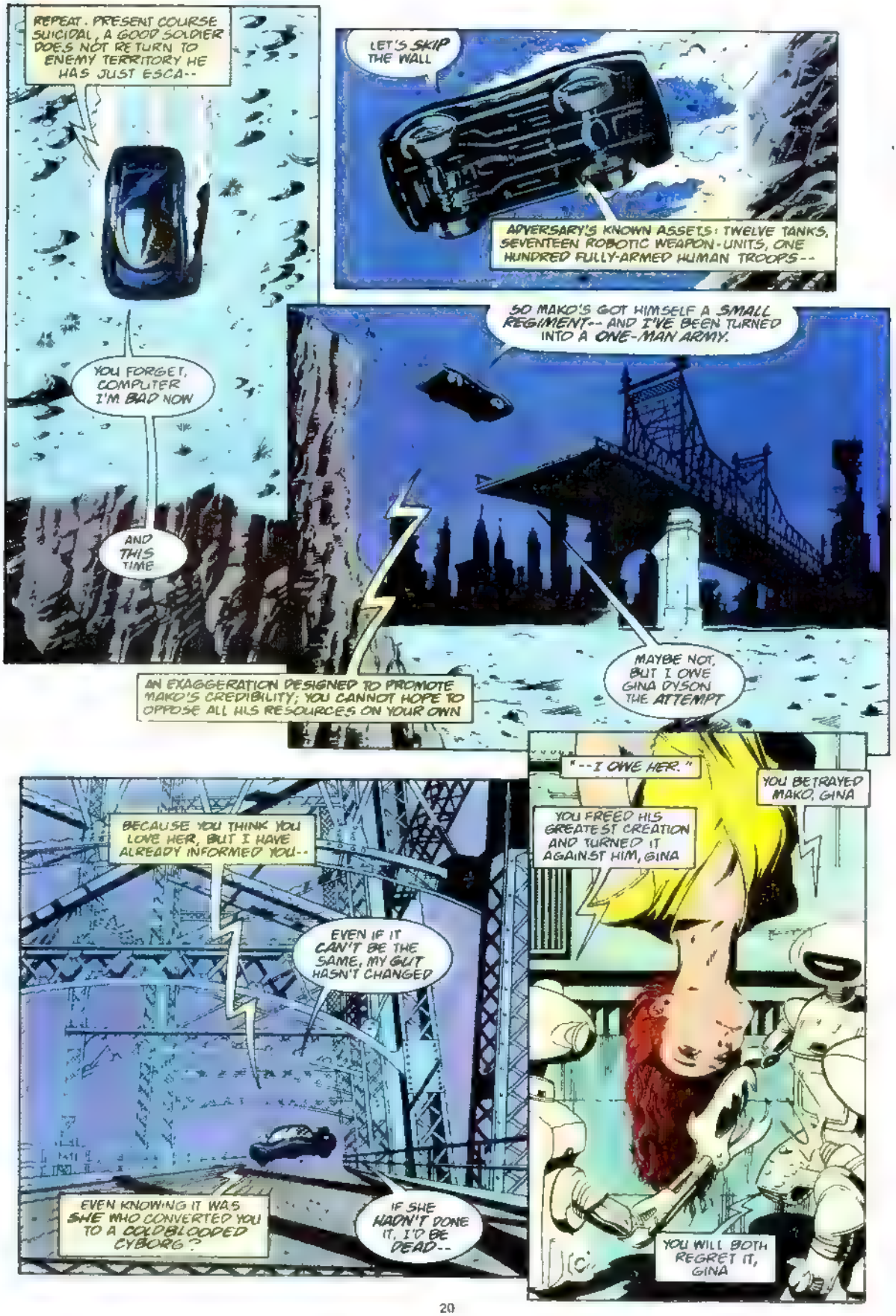
GRAND Central Station
ALL SET--TO CELEBRATE MAKO'S NEWBORN MADNESS
MMM--GREAT PLACE BUT HARDLY THE TIME OUT WHEN THE ENTHUSIASTIC BOSS MAN--SEES HAS TOWN THE CLOSE MOTHER IS PLANS HIS OWN PARTY AND DESTROY US ALL.
BUT NOW BUZZ AND DRONE, JUST LIKE NAM. FROM ABOVE, GETTING LOUDER

RISE AND SHINE STARRING: **COLDBLOOD** CHAPTER 7


THE LIBRARY WHICH IS NOT
M-MAKO.. PLEASE
MUCH AS I WOULD LOVE TO STAY AND CHAT, DEAR FAITHLESS GINA...
THE RECEPTION DRAWS NEAR, AND I MUST GO.
IT IS TIME TO LEAD OUR MONEYED RATS THROUGH THE MAZE...
WHILE YOU...
"DANGLE AS BAIT--
N-NO--!
"--FOR OUR LATE-ARRIVING AND PRODIGAL GUEST-OF-HONOR."
COMPUTER... IF IT'S TRUE GINA AND I BECAME LOVERS... COULD WE RESUME SUCH A--
LOVING IS NOT AN ASSET TO YOUR PRESENT STATUS, YOU WERE DESIGNED TO BE A CYBORG URBAN SOLDIER, A RELENTLESS KILL--
I'M A FIGHTER, NOT A LOVER.
PRECISELY
THEN MAKO'S GONNA LEARN THAT--THE HARD WAY!

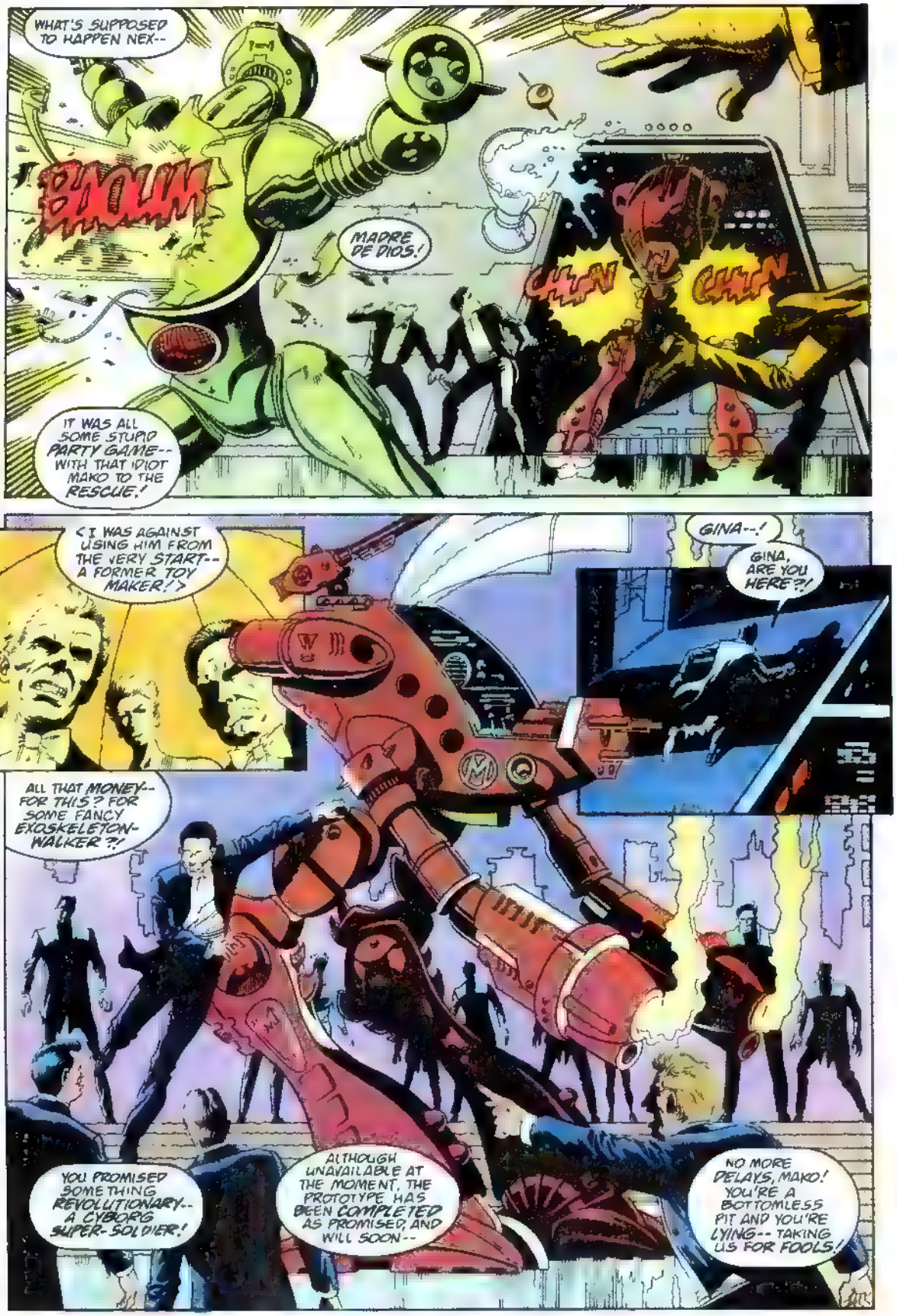
MON DIEU! TRES MAGNIFIQUE!
A WALLED FORTRESS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT-- AND IT LOOKS LIKE NEW YORK CITY!
A WEE BIT THE WORSE FOR WEAR, DON'T YOU THINK?
OH, I DON'T KNOW-- ON MY LAST SHOPPING JAUNT TO THE BIG APPLE, THE REAL THING LOOKED TACKIER THAN THIS.

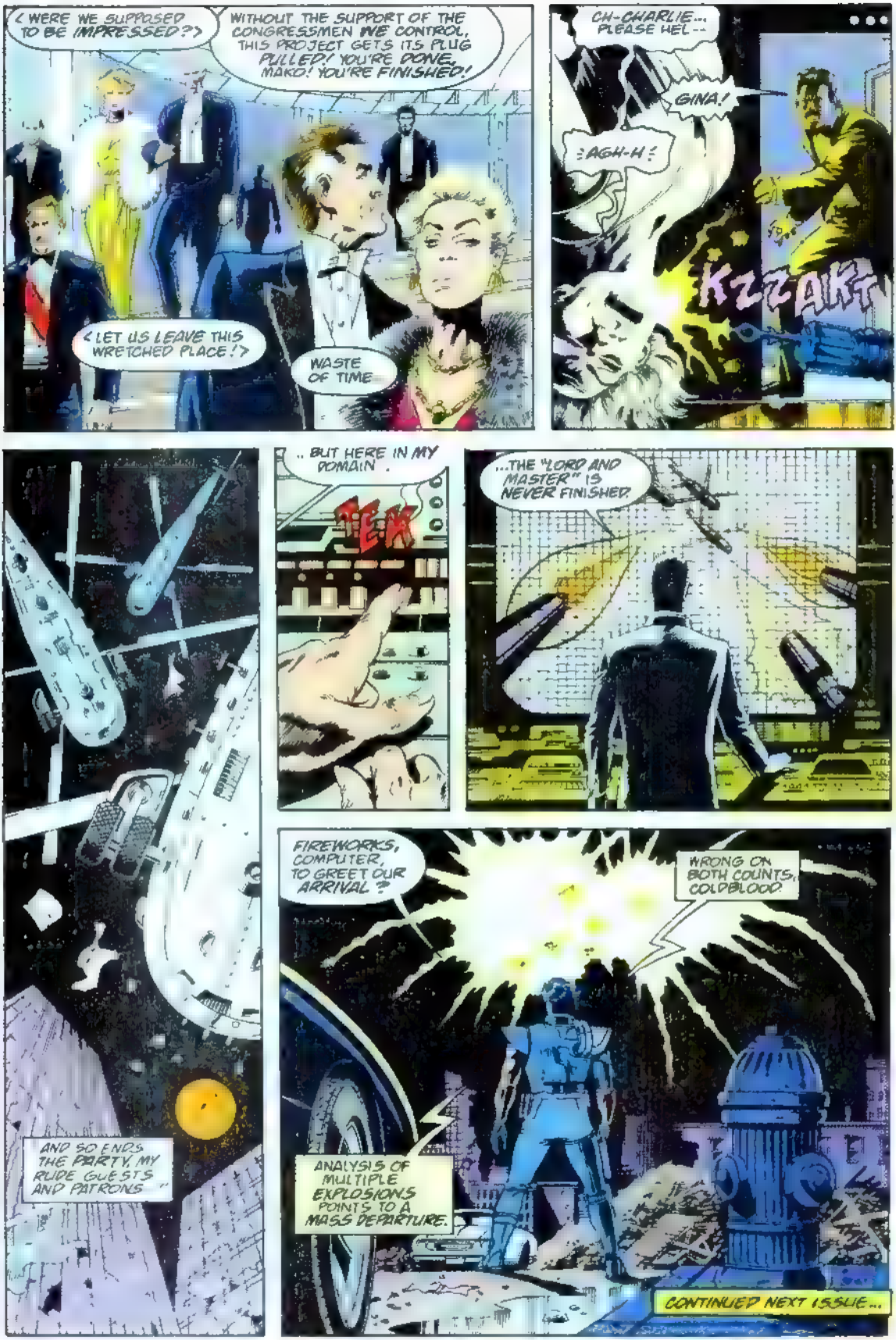

IN ANY EVENT, HARDLY AN APPROPRIATE SITE FOR A SOIREE...
OUI. PERHAPS ZE REALISM IS OVERDONE. ALMOST DISTURBING IN ZEE--
FLANG
MEIN GOTT! VAS ISS DOT?!
I'M FRIGHTENED, ROBERT
WHO--?
FORGIVE THE THEATRICAL ENTRANCE, HONORED GUESTS--
MAKO--! THANK GOD!
--BUT I CAN NEVER RESIST MY LITTLE WORLD'S UNIQUE FEATURES.
NOW, IF YOU WILL FOLLOW ME, YOUR RECEPTION AWAITS.
MAYBE THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO PARTY. ADDS A DASH OF EXCITING SPICE TO--
THAT MAN--!
HE HAS GUNS!
MERELY TESTING MANEUVERS-- AND YOU ARE SAFE, I ASSURE YOU... AS LONG AS IT IS MY WISH.
QUITE THE LORD AND MASTER OF YOUR DOMAIN HERE, ARE YOU, MAKO?
BHWOOM
INDISPUTABLY
BUT, OF COURSE, THE THING WITH THE GUNS... WAS NOT A MAN!
HA HA HA HA HA


REPEAT. PRESENT COURSE SUICIDAL, A GOOD SOLDIER DOES NOT RETURN TO ENEMY TERRITORY HE HAS JUST ESCA--
YOU FORGET, COMPUTER I'M BAD NOW
AND THIS TIME
LET'S SKIP THE WALL
ADVERSARY'S KNOWN ASSETS: TWELVE TANKS, SEVENTEEN ROBOTIC WEAPON-UNITS, ONE HUNDRED FULLY-ARMED HUMAN TROOPS--
SO MAKO'S GOT HIMSELF A SMALL REGIMENT-- AND I'VE BEEN TURNED INTO A ONE-MAN ARMY.
AN EXAGGERATION DESIGNED TO PROMOTE MAKO'S CREDIBILITY; YOU CANNOT HOPE TO OPPOSE ALL HIS RESOURCES ON YOUR OWN
MAYBE NOT, BUT I OWE GINA DYSON THE ATTEMPT
"--I OWE HER."
YOU BETRAYED MAKO, GINA
YOU FREED HIS GREATEST CREATION AND TURNED IT AGAINST HIM, GINA
BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU LOVE HER, BUT I HAVE ALREADY INFORMED YOU--
EVEN IF IT CAN'T BE THE SAME, MY GUT HASN'T CHANGED
EVEN KNOWING IT WAS SHE WHO CONVERTED YOU TO A COLD-BLOODED CYBORG?
IF SHE HADN'T DONE IT, I'D BE DEAD--
YOU WILL BOTH REGRET IT, GINA

< NATIONALISM IS DEAD >
< THE NOTION OF SEPARATE COUNTRIES IS OBSOLETE AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, IF NOT DANGEROUS >
WHY SHOULD MEANINGLESS LINES ON A MAP CREATE WARS AND RUIN BUSINESS ?
IF A COLA COMPANY CAN PROFITABLY SELL SOFT DRINKS IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW, THEN STRIFE BETWEEN THE AMERICANS AND THE SOVIETS IS RIDICULOUS--UNTHINKABLE
WE'VE GOT TO ENSURE A ONE-WORLD FUTURE, AND IT MUST BE GOVERNED BY THE LOGIC AND SANITY OF THE BOTTOM LINE-- BY US.
YES. WHO ELSE, IF NOT MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS?
VERY WELL-- BUT I'M STILL NOT SURE WE NEED AN ARMY...
ONLY A SECRET ARMY, HELD IN RESERVE FOR POSSIBLE EMERGENCIES, AND IT'S NOT REALLY AN "ARMY." THINK OF THEM AS EMPLOYEES. SECURITY GUARDS
BEST OF ALL NOW THAT MAKO HAS SUCCEEDED, THESE EMPLOYEES WILL BE SOLDIERS INCAPABLE OF FEAR OR COMPLAINING ABOUT THEIR PAY.
WHAT PAY? WE'LL OWN THEM
COLDBLOOD'S STILL NOT HERE, MAKO-- AND YOU'RE REALLY GOING THROUGH WITH YOUR "CONTINGENCY PLAN"?
EXACTAMENTE.
UNDER THE FESTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES, CHARLES, I HAVE LITTLE CHOICE.
THEY MAY NOT LIKE IT.
THEN LET THEM EAT .
HEY, MAKO--!

WHEN YA GONNA UNVEIL YER BABY BAD-BUTT?
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR, Y'KNOW TO MEET THE VERY FIRST CYBOR -
SOON, MR. CAWTHORN, I PROMISE YOU.
IN THE MEANTIME, HAVE ANOTHER DRINK, WHY DON'T YOU ?
ALL RIGHT, CHARLES, GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES TO GET READY-- BEFORE SENDING IN THE TERRORIST.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, MAKO..
AND TAKE YOUR TIME...
CLICK TEK TEK
.. I'LL NEED IT -- TO FIND GINA
DO NOT MOVE! YOU ARE ALL BEING TAKEN HOSTAGE!
GOOD LORD!
< THAT IS NO CYBORG -- IT IS A ROBOT!>
WHAT'S IT SUPPOSED TO BE -- A TERRORIST?
WELL, IT CERTAINLY ISN'T SERVING DRINKS...
< WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS NONSENSE--?>


WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN NEX--
BAOUM
MADRE DE DIOS!
CHAN
CHAN
IT WAS ALL SOME STUPID PARTY GAME-- WITH THAT IDIOT MAKO TO THE RESCUE!
<I WAS AGAINST USING HIM FROM THE VERY START-- A FORMER TOY MAKER!>
GINA--!
GINA, ARE YOU HERE?!
ALL THAT MONEY-- FOR THIS? FOR SOME FANCY EXOSKELETON-WALKER?!
YOU PROMISED SOMETHING REVOLUTIONARY-- A CYBORG SUPER-SOLDIER!
ALTHOUGH UNAVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT, THE PROTOTYPE HAS BEEN COMPLETED AS PROMISED, AND WILL SOON--
NO MORE DELAYS, MAKO! YOU'RE A BOTTOMLESS PIT AND YOU'RE LYING-- TAKING US FOR FOOLS!

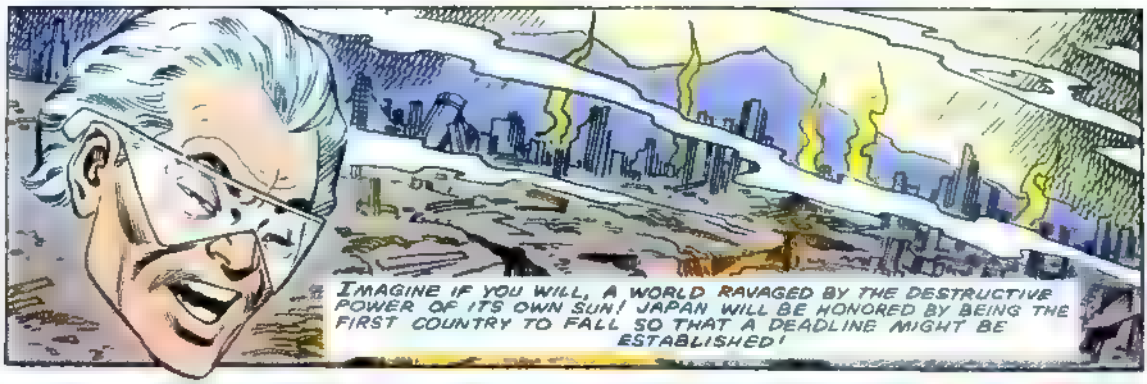

< WERE WE SUPPOSED TO BE IMPRESSED?>
WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESSMEN WE CONTROL, THIS PROJECT GETS ITS PLUG PULLED! YOU'RE DONE, MAKO! YOU'RE FINISHED!
< LET US LEAVE THIS WRETCHED PLACE!>
WASTE OF TIME
CH-CHARLIE... PLEASE HEL--
GINA!
:AGH-H:
KZZAKT
.. BUT HERE IN MY DOMAIN .
...THE "LORD AND MASTER" IS NEVER FINISHED.
AND SO ENDS THE PARTY, MY RUDE GUESTS AND PATRONS ..
FIREWORKS, COMPUTER, TO GREET OUR ARRIVAL ?
WRONG ON BOTH COUNTS, COLDBLOOD.
ANALYSIS OF MULTIPLE EXPLOSIONS POINTS TO A MASS DEPARTURE.
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

THE DREADED DEADLINE DOOM!*
* TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE
STARRING: SUNFIRE
CENTRAL BANK OF JA
AT LAST THE PERFECT CRIME! I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT TO COME TO JAPAN YEARS AGO! THERE ARE NO SUPER HEROES HERE!

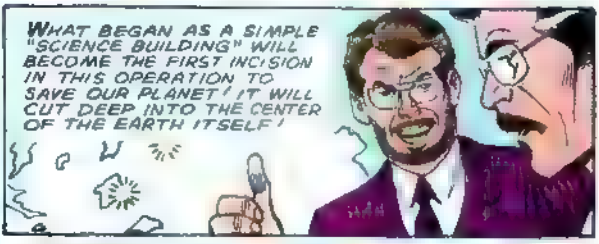
CORRUPTOR, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
EEEEE! THE SIDEWALK HAS SUDDENLY BURST INTO FLAMES!
THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPONS!
FLAMING SIDEWALKS! WHO COULD HAVE KNOWN?!
"NO SUPER HEROES" INDEED! THOSE AMERICAN SUPER VILLAINS ARE SO ARROGANT
IF ONLY ALL THE WORLD WERE AS HUMBLE AS I
AFTER ALL, I AM THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR SEEING THAT THIS NEW SCIENCE BUILDING WAS ERECTED HERE ON THE CAMPUS OF TOKYO UNIVERSITY. BUT I HAVE THE DECENCY AND HUMILITY NOT TO BRAG ABOUT MY ACCOMPLISHMENT

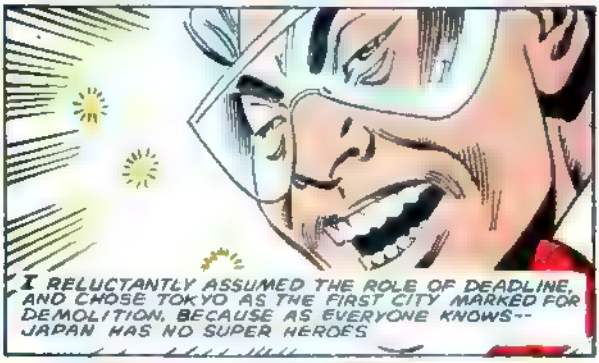
NOW THAT I HAVE LANDED ON THE ROOFTOP OF AN ADJOINING BUILDING --
--I WILL STIMULATE THE UNSTABLE MOLECULES IN THIS COSTUME OBTAINED DURING MY BRIEF TENURE WITH THE X-MEN--
--SO THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE DEDICATION OF THE BUILDING AS THE EVEN MORE HUMBLE SHIRO YOSHIDA, STUDENT
NOW I WILL DESCEND THE STAIRCASE SO THAT I MIGHT CROSS THE BANQUET HALL AND ATTEMPT TO CONVERSE WITH KISHI ORAMOSHA, JAPAN'S MOST RESPECTED BUSINESSMAN.
SHIRO! SHIRO! COME OVER HERE TO WHERE I AM WAVING TO YOU!
AS A FRENCH FOREIGN-EXCHANGE STUDENT, I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT PERSON WHO IS THAT OLD GUY OVER THERE?
"OLD GUY"?!
ERIN, I WILL LET YOU KNOW THAT JUST TO BE IN THE SAME ROOM WITH KISHI ORAMOSHA IS CONSIDERED A GREAT HONOR.
HE LOOKS VERY HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN, ALSO.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WOULD NOW LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE MAN WHO HAS MADE OUR NEW SCIENCE BUILDING POSSIBLE -- DR. KISHI ORAMOSHA!

MOST HONORED ASSEMBLAGE, TODAY BEGINS A NEW ERA IN THE PROUD HISTORY OF JAPAN
YEYH! YEYH!
THE GLOBAL VILLAGE IN WHICH WE LIVE HAS FALLEN ON DARK TIMES--PEOPLE ARE STARVING, COUNTRIES ARE AT WAR WITH EACH OTHER, THE ENVIRONMENT IS BEING DESTROYED BY CORPORATE EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
HUH? WHA--? HUH?
THE MOMENT HAS COME FOR THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN TO LIGHT THE WAY!
EEEE! WE ARE BLINDED! THE LIGHT--WE CANNOT SEE!
I AM PROUD TO INTRODUCE--THE END OF WORLD
I AM PROUD TO INTRO DUCE--OUR SALVATION


IMAGINE IF YOU WILL, A WORLD RAVAGED BY THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF ITS OWN SUN! JAPAN WILL BE HONORED BY BEING THE FIRST COUNTRY TO FALL SO THAT A DEADLINE MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED!

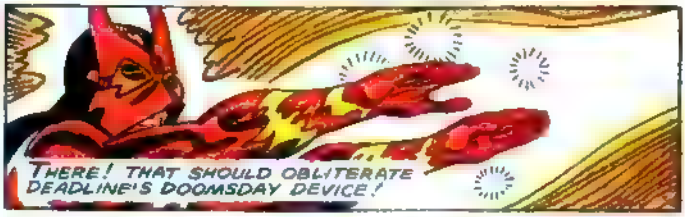
THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD WILL BE FORCED TO SET ASIDE THEIR PETTY DIFFERENCES AND UNITE IN AN EFFORT TO STOP THE CHAIN REACTION THAT WILL EVENTUALLY DESTROY EVERY MAJOR CITY IN THE WORLD.


WHAT BEGAN AS A SIMPLE "SCIENCE BUILDING" WILL BECOME THE FIRST INCISION IN THIS OPERATION TO SAVE OUR PLANET! IT WILL CUT DEEP INTO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH ITSELF!

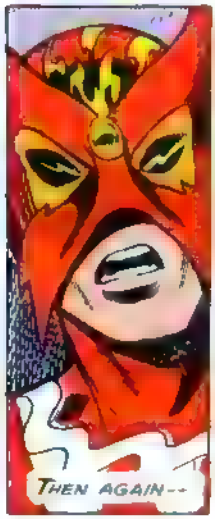

I RELUCTANTLY ASSUMED THE ROLE OF DEADLINE, AND CHOSE TOKYO AS THE FIRST CITY MARKED FOR DEMOLITION. BECAUSE AS EVERYONE KNOWS-- JAPAN HAS NO SUPER HEROES

THAT DOES IT!
SHIRO?!

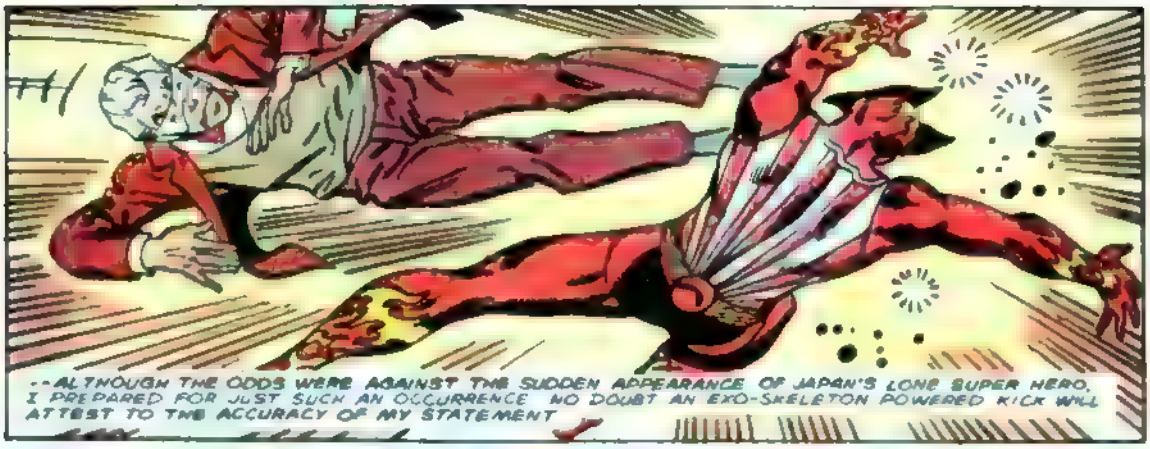
I, SUNFIRE, WILL STOP THIS MADNESS WITH A DOUBLE-FISTED BLAST OF MY ATOMIC FLAME!

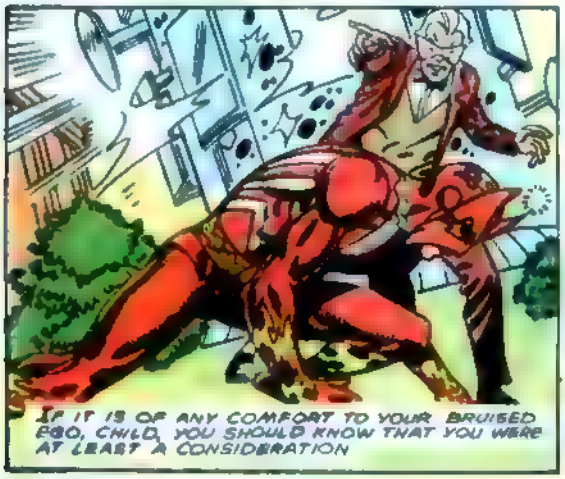

THERE! THAT SHOULD OBLITERATE DEADLINE'S DOOMSDAY DEVICE!

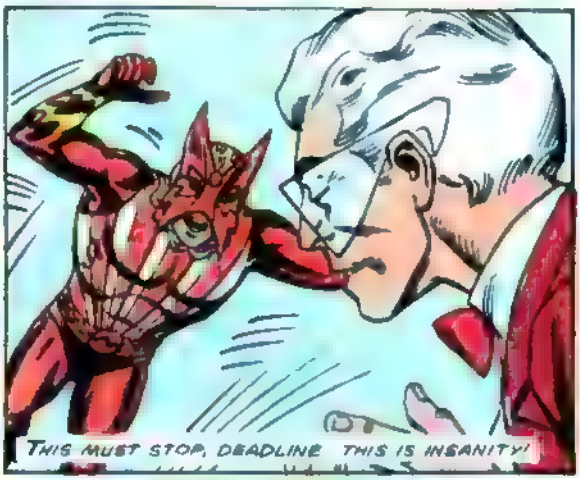
UH

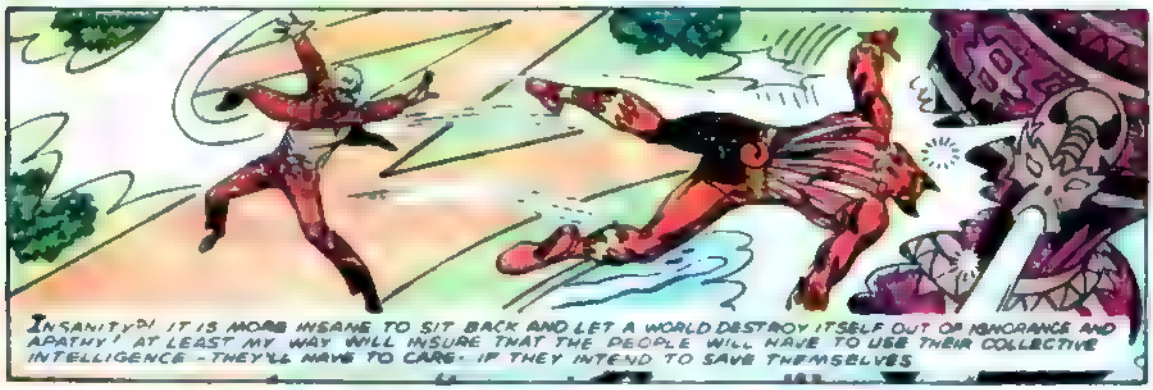

THEN AGAIN--

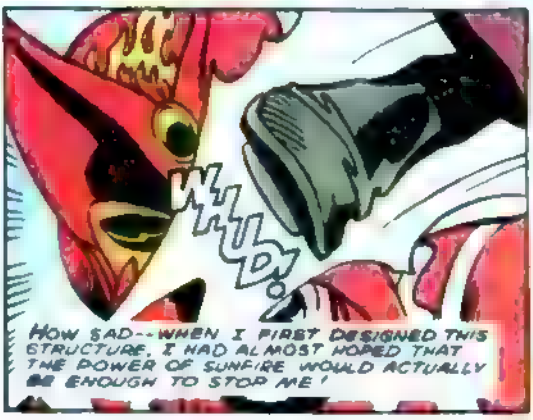
INCREDIBLE! MY BLASTS HAD ABSOLUTELY NO EFFECT!
OF COURSE! SUNFIRE --

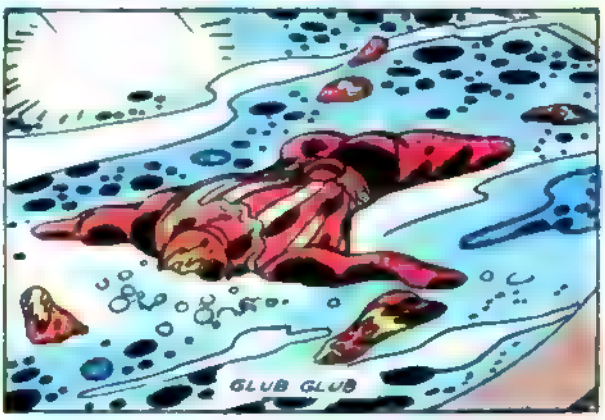

--ALTHOUGH THE ODDS WERE AGAINST THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF JAPAN'S LONE SUPER HERO, I PREPARED FOR JUST SUCH AN OCCURRENCE NO DOUBT AN EXO-SKELETON POWERED KICK WILL ATTEST TO THE ACCURACY OF MY STATEMENT


IF IT IS OF ANY COMFORT TO YOUR BRUISED EGO, CHILD, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT YOU WERE AT LEAST A CONSIDERATION

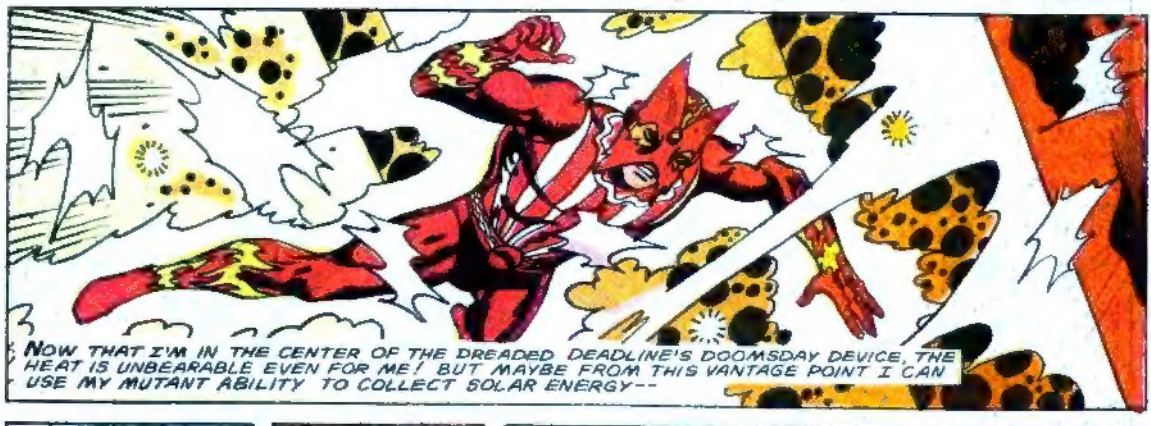

THIS MUST STOP, DEADLINE THIS IS INSANITY!


INSANITY?! IT IS MORE INSANE TO SIT BACK AND LET A WORLD DESTROY ITSELF OUT OF IGNORANCE AND APATHY! AT LEAST MY WAY WILL INSURE THAT THE PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO USE THEIR COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE - THEY'LL HAVE TO CARE - IF THEY INTEND TO SAVE THEMSELVES

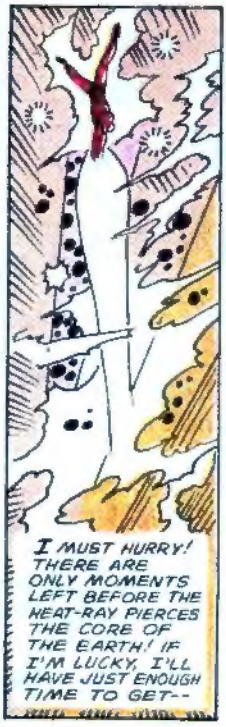

HOW SAD--WHEN I FIRST DESIGNED THIS STRUCTURE, I HAD ALMOST HOPED THAT THE POWER OF SUNFIRE WOULD ACTUALLY BE ENOUGH TO STOP ME!


GLUB GLUB

OH, NO YOU DON'T, SHIRO!
WE HAVE EVEN LESS SUPER HEROES IN FRANCE THAN YOU DO HERE IN JAPAN, BUT ISN'T THIS THE POINT WHERE YOU PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS AND DESTROY THE DOOMSDAY DEVICE AT THE LAST POSSIBLE INSTANT?
YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND, ERIN! CALL HIMSELF WHAT HE WILL, THAT IS STILL KISHI ORAMOSHA! HE FEARS NOTHING!
LEAST OF ALL, ME.
BULLSUSHI! HE'S INTIMIDATING YOU AND YOU ARE BELIEVING IT!
LOOK HOW FAR AWAY HE STANDS FROM THE HEAT-RAY! HE IS AS HUMAN AS YOU AND I. WELL, AS I ANYWAY...
HE DID SAY THERE WAS SOME WAY TO STOP HIM...
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! NOW GET IN THERE, AND DO WHATEVER IT IS YOU DO! AFTER ALL, YOU DON'T WANT JAPAN TO BE KNOWN AS THE COUNTRY THAT DESTROYED THE WORLD--DO YOU?
CERTAINLY NOT!


NOW THAT I'M IN THE CENTER OF THE DREADED DEADLINE'S DOOMSDAY DEVICE, THE HEAT IS UNBEARABLE EVEN FOR ME! BUT MAYBE FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT I CAN USE MY MUTANT ABILITY TO COLLECT SOLAR ENERGY--

--AND CHANNEL IT DIRECTLY INTO THE DEVICE ITSELF! I'LL CREATE A COUNTER-PULSE THAT WILL CAUSE FEEDBACK THAT IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO DESTROY THE ENTIRE "SCIENCE BUILDING."


I MUST HURRY! THERE ARE ONLY MOMENTS LEFT BEFORE THE HEAT-RAY PIERCES THE CORE OF THE EARTH! IF I'M LUCKY, I'LL HAVE JUST ENOUGH TIME TO GET--

--AWAY.

YEEEAAAAHHH! YOU DID IT, SUNFIRE! YOU DID IT!

IT APPEARS I UNDERESTIMATED THE YOUTH OF THIS COUNTRY. AT LEAST I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MY GOAL OF MAKING PEOPLE AWARE OF THE CRISES THEY FACE, WHICH OF COURSE WAS MY ORIGINAL PLAN.

DO YOU BELIEVE THE NERVE OF THAT MAN? HERE YOU DEFEATED HIM FAIR AND SQUARE, AND HE MAKES IT SOUND LIKE IT WAS HIS PLAN ALL ALONG!

HIS ARROGANCE AMAZES ME. HE SHOULD CONSIDER HIMSELF FORTUNATE THAT I WENT EASY ON HIM. THERE WAS A MOMENT THERE WHEN I LOST MY TEMPER, THAT I WAS GOING TO...
THE END.

MARVEL® READERS PRESENT

Dear Marvel,

It's been a full year now and I still really enjoy MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. Issue #24 was definitely no exception. For the first time in a long time, I can safely say that I even like all four stories contained within. Now on to specifics . . .

I really enjoyed every installment of "The Retribution Affair." Each story held my interest, and made me want to read the next one. The last segment was the best in my opinion. Bob, you really did a good job with this one. Why'd you have to kill Conscience, though? I was really beginning to like him! Ron Lim and Jeff Albrecht did a really good job, too. This all-action issue looked great. I hope Banshee's powers are back permanently. He'd look good back in the X-Men again.

"Panther's Quest" is still continuing to hold my interest, too. How can it not with that great team that works on it? Don McGregor's new creation, Zanti Chikane, is a great character. I think he really shows what life must be like for the black man in South Africa. I hope he doesn't die (like Conscience did, sniff, sniff) in the course of this series. That would really upset me. Anyway, Gene and Tom are still doing a great job also. Those guys can really tell a story.

The Shamrock story was pretty interesting. It was kind of depressing, though, don't you think? Scott Lobdell has shown that he can write many different types of stories. This one is a far cry from the El Aguila story he wrote some time ago. Hey, Scott, does this mean you have some more Shamrock stories in the works? I hope so. I've never seen Dennis Jensen's work before, but if this is any indication, I want to see more! The way the mood of this story was conveyed in the art was excellent. Good job, fellows, even if it was quite a downer.

And last but not least, I must say that I'm looking forward to future installments of "Pharaoh's Legacy" with great interest. I've always been a Havok fan (HAVOK AND WOLVERINE looks awesome), and this looks like it'll really be good. Howard Mackie looks like he has another winner on his hands (I was one of the people who read AIR RAIDERS, and I was waiting to see a new series from him, not just those fill-in stories for IRON MAN and POWER PACK), and I for one am going to stick around and see how this turns out. Even though I'm not a big Rich Buckler fan, his stuff here looks pretty good. I guess that's Joe Rubinstein's doing. Well, whatever it is, keep it up!

Well, happy anniversary, guys, and I hope you celebrate a lot more in the future. I'll be right there with you!

Victor DuPree
Fresno, CA

Wow, thanks for all of your compliments, Victor. You've really covered everyone with your praise in this letter. Boy, proud new father Howard Mackie now has three things in life to be really happy about: his new daughter, Samantha, his lovely wife, Deborah, and his most adoring fan, Victor. Hope we hear from you again many years down the line, too!

Dear Marvel,

I felt like writing to you guys when I started reading your comics, but I didn't. Now I must comment on the Cyclops story, "The Retribution Affair." I mean, you guys at MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS can write, draw, and color good fight stories. I also enjoyed "Panther's Quest" as much as I did Cyclops! I just finished issue #24, and I look forward to #25.

Now it's time for me to go. In short, keep up the good work.

José Macasocol
2023 Folsom St. #2
San Francisco, CA 94110

Short and sweet, José. Thanks!

Dear Marvel,

I have read MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS since issue #1, and I am impressed. I didn't expect it to be all that great, but the stories are interesting, the artwork is good, and the suspense at each cliff-hanger ending is pure torture. I have loved almost all of the features, but those of the title characters are, of course, the best. The Wolverine story was excellent, the Colossus story pretty good, the Cyclops story awesome, and the Havok story shows promise.

I have to say that "The Retribution Affair," starring Cyclops, was my favorite, especially in the last few issues. Issue #24 was the best of these. The use of Banshee was both welcomed and unexpected. He was the last person I expected to save the day! Mr. Harras, I salute you. When Banshee came screaming onto the page, with his long-absent powers restored, I was so excited I almost cried. It's been too long since that sonic power was heard, and I hope this isn't just a temporary side-effect of the antidote, as Moira MacTaggart suggested. I sincerely hope his powers are back for good and Banshee will be seen among the ranks of the X-Men again, or maybe X-Factor. Here's hoping!

But regardless of Sean's fate, MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS has become regular reading for me, and I hope the quality never changes, because it's perfect just the way it is! If this continues, MCP will certainly number as many issues as the X-MEN. See you soon . . .

Geoff Sims
821 Northview Cove
Dyersburg, TN 38024

Only time will tell if Banshee's powers are permanent, Geoff (and Victor). And don't be surprised if you see him showing up in the pages of one of your favorite mutant books sometime in the near future (just don't tell anyone you heard that here, okay?).

Dear Terry,

Having just finished issue #24 of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS I felt it my duty to write and tell you all how wonderful the book is and looks like it will be going . . .

"The Retribution Affair" came to a very explosive (ha ha) ending. I was actually sorry to see it end. I very much enjoyed Bob's stories. They were always suspenseful and well written. The thought provoking theme of prejudice against a superior race of humans was very well done and I looked forward to the next issue to see how it would continue. The art team, much like the writer, was very good. I have liked Ron's stuff since I first read *Ex-Mutants*. I was glad to see that he was doing the artwork and I enjoyed every frame of the story. I hope that he will be doing more stories for this book.

"Panther's Quest" is just beyond me. I believe that T'Challa is looking for his mother. Am I right? But what gets me is that he just gets into deeper and deeper trouble that is so incomprehensible for a comic-book character. And I'm not too thrilled with the artwork either.

"I Haven't Got Time For The Pain" was really great. Too bad that it's only one story. Since I'm just getting into Marvel, this was a good introduction to the character. The beginning monologue was written in such a way as to make it possible for a newcomer like me to know what her whole life story is about. The whole story was very good and well written. Filled to the top with action and suspense. The artwork was very enjoyable, also.

But I think the big story in this issue was Havok's serial, "Pharaoh's Legacy." Good, good stuff. I bet there is a deeper mystery behind Leila's story than she told. I can't wait to find out what it is. The ending was very good. I can't wait for the next issue to see what happens to our pair of adventurers.

Well, in closing, I am very happy with the new ongoing serial, and hope that the next many will be as good as this one and the previous ones. Overall, the book has been a joy to read, and I will continue to read the book as long as the high-standard that has been shown in the past and present continues into the future. See you next issue. Keep up the great work.

Galen S. West
Ponderosa Hall #23A
Fresno State University
Fresno, CA 43710

We'll try, Galen. Meanwhile, why don't you and Victor get together! We don't think it's too often that two readers from Fresno meet in the same letters page, so make the most of it!

Dear Marvel,

I have only two words for you people: GHOST RIDER! GHOST RIDER! GHOST RIDER! GHOST RIDER!

And I don't mean that cowboy dude, either. I mean Zarathos, demonic spirit of vengeance. A nice little story in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS would satisfy me until he returns to his own series. The world just isn't the same without his cackling laugh. Well, whaddya say?

Christopher W. Rice
12 Joan Avenue
Centereach, NY 11720

We'll think about it, Christopher . . .

BLACK PANTHER
STUCK IN THE HEART OF THE CITY!
SUNFIRE
VS. THE DREADED DEADLINE DOOM!
COLDBLOOD
IN WARGAMES!